

Honolulu Star-Bulletin

RILEY H. ALLEN

EDITOR

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 5, 1914

The church stands for and represents all that is best in civic life, and every man, woman and child should be a member of that institution.—Adolph O. Eberhard, governor of Minnesota.

FRONTAGE-TAX PRINCIPLES

Discussing the frontage-tax principle for road improvement, the Advertiser this morning says:

The Advertiser's idea of the distribution of cost for road work done under the frontage tax system is that the property directly benefitted should pay 100 per cent of the road-building and the city should pay 100 per cent of the cost of maintenance. The beauty of such a distribution is its simplicity. There is no room for any disagreement regarding proportional benefits between the public at large and the property-owners and no necessity for any long-winded arguments about whether the costs should come out of the property-owners' frontage tax pocket or his general tax pocket, because the property-owner has to pay the bill anyhow, and the simpler the arrangement the less the need for explanation.

The plan outlined above certainly has the beauty of simplicity, but unfortunately it is simple enough to be in opposition to law. A supreme court decision, and a very proper decision, too, stands in the way of any such lump distribution of the cost of road improvement. This decision has already been referred to by the Star-Bulletin. It was written by Chief Justice Robertson in a case involving the validity of the "revolving-fund" act of 1911. Upholding that act, the supreme court said:

The duty to grade or pave such a highway may not be imposed by law upon abutting owners and although such owners may legally be compelled to contribute to the cost of grading and paving the highway upon which their lands are situated, the amount of the enforced contribution, laid in the form of a special tax or assessment, cannot legally exceed the value of the special benefits which accrue to the abutting property as the result of the improvement.

It is immediately obvious that this decision is squarely against the principle advocated by the Advertiser. The instances in which abutting property benefits the full hundred per cent of the cost of road improvement will probably be in the minority. In most instances, certainly in the most important improvements, non-abutting property and the entire city will receive some of the benefits. On the main arteries of traffic, the main-traveled thoroughfares, the waterfront streets, improvements will benefit the entire city and the entire city should help pay for them.

Nor can the building-and-maintenance lump distribution plan be put into effect on only a part of the community's streets and roads. A principle must be adopted that will be equitable no matter where it is operated.

Right here it might be well to point out that it is in this very court decision, and in the recognized principle of the frontage-tax law, that there is furnished protection to the property-owner. The chairman of the supervisors' roads committee, in an address to the Ad Club yesterday, expressed the fear that if the frontage-tax were to be put into operation, many poor people would lose their small holdings, being unable to pay the frontage-tax assessed.

This fear is groundless, provided the supervisors themselves do their duty. If the tax is unjustly high, it will inevitably be declared confiscatory by the courts. The supervisors control the improvement unless a substantial majority of the affected property-owners demand it. If a majority demand it, the supervisors themselves sit as a board of equalization to determine the respective amounts of the frontage-tax. In expressing a fear that the tax may fall too heavily on some poor people, Supervisor Petrie thus expresses lack of confidence in the ability of the supervisors to handle the situation.

What the progressive people of Honolulu ask is not improvement against the wishes of property-owners, but improvement in accordance with the wishes of property-owners. If the property-owners don't want to pay their just proportion of the expense, they needn't have the improvement.

EUGENICS

A novel suggestion for the practical operation of eugenics is made in a recent number of The Fra. The suggestion is in brief that before the

HEADLIGHTS CONFUSED TAXICAB DRIVER, SAYS EVIDENCE AT INQUEST

That powerful electric or gas lamps installed on many automobiles now traversing Honolulu streets after dark prove extremely confusing as well as dazzling, figured conspicuously in the mass of testimony taken yesterday afternoon, which will again be brought up this afternoon, at the inquest called by Coroner Charles Rose in the inquiry concerning the death of

Kom Sou, the Chinese chauffeur, who was killed on Monday night. Six witnesses remain to be interrogated before the jury will be in a position to reach a verdict. The testimony brought out yesterday points to the declaration that it was taxi No. 1459 that, crashing into the unlighted auto, killed the Chinese.

A number of cars were said to have passed in the vicinity of the scene of accident on King street, while many carried lights that to the witness proved blinding in their intensity.

Representatives from the Chinese front lamps on the taxicab. Some be-

marriage-ceremony, every bridegroom should be required to present the bride with a life-insurance policy on himself. Discussing the matter informally and with humor and good-sense, The Fra says:

"Several states in the Union have adopted laws providing for a physical examination of the prospective bridegroom, and a refusal of the marriage-license to all those who fail to pass.

"Securing a certificate of health, however, and presenting it to the interested parties is a rather uncanny affair. It is suggestive, to say the least.

"Altogether, it involves a degree of publicity that is rather embarrassing for quite a number of people concerned.

"A life-insurance policy implies the health of the individual, and all examiners will understand and appreciate the importance as well as the import of 'a bridegroom's policy.' An insurance-policy puts the whole thing on a gracious, graceful and generous ground. An insurance-policy is a valuable gift, and when it comes as a love-token, it will be especially prized.

"If a woman gives her life into the keeping of a man, why should not the man in return give her at least a policy on his life?

"Not only is a life-insurance policy a guaranty of health, but it is also a guaranty of something quite as important, and that is business acumen.

"To be able to secure a life-insurance policy is a privilege. Not every man can get one. But anybody can get married who is able to pay a license-fee of fifty cents. As for the clergyman, we can stand him off.

"A life-insurance policy is a certificate of character, a certificate of health, a symbol of economic sufficiency and efficiency, all in one.

"The fact that a man is insured makes him a better citizen, a better husband and a better father. So there you are."

IF NOT, WHY NOT?

Supervisor Petrie's address to the Ad Club yesterday was able and in many respects logical, but it is open to fair criticism on several points.

He said there must be a "permanent city plan" completed before the frontage-tax can be enforced, and pointed out the necessity for getting the proper grades, laying the storm-sewers, water-mains and other underground utilities. Whether he meant to or not, he gave the impression that the supervisors wish to delay action until this permanent city plan is finished.

We would ask Mr. Petrie if there are not a number of sections of the city where this preliminary work has already been done and where the frontage-tax can be put into operation practically at once. Why should these sections wait until, in the dim future, the overworked and undermanned city engineering department completes the mapping of the other sections? If not, why not?

A woman politician has been beaten by a Chicago ward-heeler. Probably the chivalrous gentleman is now entirely confident that he has restored her to her proper sphere.

To think that a man with a name like Guillermo Billingham should be deposed with no more ceremony than a Sulzer or a Murphy!

"Hair Restorer Sold on the Block," says a headline. A good many thinly-thatched persons now demand immediate information as to what block.

A former congressman has escaped a jail sentence. Possibly his previous servitude was taken into consideration by the judge.

How handy it is to have Col. Roosevelt right there in South America where he can take charge of things!

Now, Mr. Wilson, are you going to recognize the new Peru president?

Thank to President Wilson, it's now *arma ris-cunque Pancho*.

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LETTERS

[The Star-Bulletin invites free and frank discussion in this column on all legitimate subjects of current interest. Communications are constantly received to which no signature is attached. This paper will treat as confidential signatures to letters if the writers so desire, but cannot give space to anonymous communications.]

ACKNOWLEDGMENT.

Editor Honolulu Star-Bulletin.

Sir:—The Standards of Waialua and Kailua wish to thank all those that contributed towards the creation of the cross that now ornaments the Spanish Catholic cemetery, especially Mr. W. W. Goodale who made the greatest donation; therefore greatest effort towards its accomplishment. Also Mr. John G. Duarte who furnished the general plan of the cross.

Thanking you in advance for your kindness in granting this space, I am, very respectfully,

JOS. FERNANDEZ CURTIS.

LITTLE INTERVIEWS

—MAYOR FERN: I am glad to see that the new civil service commission is ready to get busy.

—W. G. McPHERSON, Portland: Meeting with the Honolulu Ad Club is not an inspiration—it's an intoxication.

—E. A. MOTT-SMITH: The public utilities commission seems to be having all sorts of meetings. I read this morning that it met yesterday at noon.

—F. P. LILLY, Seattle: People who come here as tourists like to bring their machines, and if you have good roads, there'll be all the more tourists here.

—JAMES FREDERICK FIELD: Seven months is a long time to serve in jail for a crime I didn't commit—but I'm mighty glad to be free just the same.

—PERLEY L. HORNE: It is quite an honor to the Kamehameha School to be asked by the carnival to supply the leading characters for "Umi and Pili-ka." As yet, no appointments have been made.

—GUS A. SCHUMAN: I have learned that 60 automobiles arrived for the islands during the month of January. I believe that nearly approaches a record importation. The cars cover a wide variety of make and style.

—DEPUTY SHERIFF ROSE: In retiring as past chief-marshal in Court Lunello, Ancient Order of Foresters, last night, I was presented with a beautiful gold tob; which I highly prize. The gift came as a complete surprise.

—SAM WILLIAMS (Purser Oceanic liner Sierra): The popular "ferry boat" will not be deserted by any manner of means in sailing for the coast on the next trip. We have a good list of travelers booked for San Francisco.

—ISIDOR JACOBS, San Francisco: The Ad Club of San Francisco has learned that it's wisest to concentrate its efforts rather than try to do too many things at once. That's the way we are getting results in the campaign for improvements.

—FRANK ANDRADE (attorney): Jeff McCann's cross-examination of Pauline Hayes, Jack Long and William Knock in his "white slave" case against them was the most grilling test to which I believe any witnesses have ever been subjected in the history of our territorial courts.

—DON GILMORE: When some people state that the Sierra failed to add to the general din attending the arrival of the Matsonia, they do not state facts. Captain Houdlette took charge of the whistle cord and the Sierra participated to a great extent in the boisterous reception.

—D. P. R. ISENBERG: I have about decided to stock the large pools now forming Waialae road in Moiliili, with several beautiful varieties of fish. When I have the proposed new aquariums ready for inspection, I shall grant a first view to the members of the road committee of the board of supervisors.

—CAPTAIN J. S. GREENE (Matson steamer Honolulu): I have been told that the passenger accommodation on this vessel is equal to that found on many of the steamers calling at Honolulu. I presume the fact that we are not carrying many travelers that they were lighted, while others were sure that the car carried no lights, though at 7:30, the time of the accident, the street was quite dark.

—JOHN H. DREW: Did you say an annual Matson day in Honolulu? No, thank you. The arrival of the Matsonia, together with the usual run of business connected with the shipping department brought about a decidedly strenuous season. We may repeat the celebration with the advent of the new Matsonia in about another month.

—CAPTAIN OF DETECTIVES McDUFFIE: I have been given to understand that a delegation of card sharps and sure thing men who came down from the coast with the intention of remaining here for the carnival, decided to seek greener pastures and skipped for the Orient. We still have several suspicious characters under more or less constant observation.

AID ASSOCIATION OF MAUI ELECTS YEAR'S OFFICERS

[Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence.]

WAILUKU, Maui, Feb. 4.—At the Wailuku office the annual meeting of the Maui Aid Association was held last Tuesday morning. All the members and trustees were present except George P. Cooke of Molokai. The financial report of the treasurer, Rev. R. B. Dodge, was presented, which showed a balance on hand of over \$600 for the work of 1914.

The names of Capt. W. E. Bal and R. A. Wadsworth as members of the Alexander House gymnasium were ratified.

It was voted to lease a strip of land on Vineyard street from the Wailuku Sugar Company. Upon this lot the new building for the Wailuku Japanese Girls' Home is being erected by the association. The building is well under way and will make a very imposing structure when completed. This, together with the other buildings on the premises leased from the Wailuku Sugar Company, will be large enough to house nearly 100 girls.

The election of new members resulted in the addition of the following persons to the present membership of the Maui Aid Association: Dr. W. D. Baldwin, Rev. A. C. Bowdish, Miss Charlotte L. Turner, Clarence G. White, Rev. Howard Harris, Rev. C. G. Burnham, Rev. Louis Mitchell, Clarence A. Macdonald.

The present membership of the association is 19. Of these the following were chosen trustees for the coming year: Mrs. Emily A. Baldwin, H. A. Baldwin, F. F. Baldwin, Rev. R. B. Dodge, Rev. L. B. Kaumehelewa, D. C. Lindsay, H. B. Penhallow, Harold W. Rice, Rev. D. W. K. White, all of whom were members of the board last year. Dr. W. D. Baldwin and Rev. A. C. Bowdish were added to the trustees.

Frank F. Baldwin was again elected president, H. A. Baldwin vice-president, Rev. R. B. Dodge, secretary, treasurer and D. C. Lindsay auditor. The finance committee for the coming year will be F. F. Baldwin, D. C. Lindsay and R. B. Dodge.

An interesting innovation in the work of the association for the coming year was suggested by the secretary-treasurer. Hereafter various committees will be responsible for different departments of the work in Maui county. They were appointed by the president and consist of the following:

Committee on reports of pastors—Revs. A. C. Burnham, A. C. Bowdish and R. B. Dodge.

Committee on monthly school, theological training of Maui pastors and evangelists, candidates for the ministry and on the Maui Aid library—Revs. A. C. Bowdish, Howard Harris and R. B. Dodge.

Committee on repairs and erection of new buildings and subscription papers. All subscription papers shall be made up in the office of the Maui Aid Association after the different committees have authorized the same. These papers shall be signed by the treasurer, and all moneys collected returned to him, to be distributed in accordance with the provisions of the subscription paper.

District of Molokai—Geo. P. Cooke, Revs. H. P. Judd and R. B. Dodge. District of Lahaina—Rev. C. G. Burnham, Rev. D. W. K. White, H. A. Baldwin, C. A. Macdonald and Rev. R. B. Dodge.

District of Wailuku—H. B. Penhallow, Rev. H. Harris, Rev. L. B. Kaumehelewa, D. C. Lindsay and Rev. R. B. Dodge.

District of Makawao—H. A. Baldwin, Mrs. Emily A. Baldwin, Harold W. Rice, Clarence G. White and Rev. R. B. Dodge.

District of Hana—Revs. H. P. Judd.

clers this trip is accounted for by the sailing of the Matsonia within a few days.

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Personality In Your Stationery

is secured by first using distinctive paper and envelopes, and then having your monogram, name or residence die-stamped thereon in an artistic manner. May we suggest ideas?

WICHMAN & CO.,
Jewelers

FLOAT OWNERS WILL HAVE A CHANCE TO SEE NEIGHBORS' ENTRIES

Major E. V. Smith, who is to be grand marshal on Floral Parade day, is arranging a new plan for the final assembly and review of the Floral Parade, which will afford additional opportunity for the public to view the entries and also allow those who enter to see one another's entries in line of march. He plans to have the floats draw up in line along the curbing as they approach Beretania and Alexander streets, and wait there, allowing those behind them to pass in turn.

The first float to arrive will draw up at the town end of the line, the second next and so on until all are lined up, when they will enter the Moiliili grounds. Thus the last of the floats will be the first to enter the ground, passing in front of the others as it does so. This will give those in the floats a fine view of the parade. The route of march next calls for rounding the big park, in which the grandstands and reviewing stand will be.

figuring deeply in economy, evidently intending to use just as much of it as every department and public improvement project will bear.

March of Progress

Neighbor from Town: I understand you're sellin' off your cows?
Farmer Cornsilk: Yep. Ain't got no place to keep 'em. My boy Bill wants th' south meadow for a golf links.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

For Sale

Modern Home \$12,000.

In Manoa Valley, large lot, servants' quarters, garage, beautiful view, close to carline, has modern conveniences—gas, electric lights and city water.

Trent Trust Co.

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OUR SILVERWARE

Will stand the test. Compare it with others and you will find it more attractive and less expensive.

VIEIRA JEWELRY CO.

Henry Waterhouse Trust Co., Limited,

Real Estate for Sale

Building lots near town, on Miller street, \$1300 to \$2000, according to size.

Spreckels Tract lots opposite Oahu College, 100x100, for \$1600.

Acre lots at Fruitvale, Palolo Valley, \$600 per acre.

Kaimuki, Ocean View and Palolo Hill lots, \$400 and up.

Henry Waterhouse Trust Co. Limited,

Cor. Fort and Merchant Sts. HONOLULU, T. H.

For Rent

Piikoi St. 3 bedrooms \$40 Auld Lane. 3 bedrooms, \$16.00
Kalihi off Kam. IV. Rd. 3 bedrooms \$35 Pua Lane. \$ 6.50

For Sale

In Kaimuki, a modern home, costing owner \$6000. Lot 75x150. Servants' quarters, garage, chicken yard, with Koko Head Ocean View. Has modern conveniences of gas, electricity and artesian water.

Price \$4750.

Guardian Trust Co., Ltd.,

205 Bank of Hawaii Bldg.